



Paul Gosselin
Acting Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation

Agricultural Pest Control Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes



Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor

Date: Wednesday, July 14, 2004 Time: 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 pm
Location: Cal EPA Building, 1001 I Street Training Room East/West, Sacramento, CA 95812

Members Present: (10) Ronald Berg- Pesticide Dealers, Tim Butler– Registrants, Michael Costello-California State University System, Scott Hudson- County Agricultural Commissioner Association, George Kaiser – Maintenance Gardener Pest Control Business, Jean La Duc- General Public, Linda LaVanne- Agricultural Pest Control Advisers, Patrick O'Connor Marer- University of California, Richard Stoltz- Pest Control Aircraft Pilots, Barbara Todd- Department of Food and Agriculture (Ex-Officio).

Department Staff: David Duncan- Chair of Committee, Nan Gorder, Lisa Ross, Cynthia Ray, Sandy Ratliff, Mac Takeda.

Guests: Kim Crum- CAPCA, Terry Gage- California Ag Aircraft Association, Judy Letterman- PAPA, Vickie Krammer- DHS, Dennis Kelly- Syngenta, Renee Pine- WPHA.

Members Absent: (4) Ronald Cisney– Agricultural Pest Control Businesses, David De Silva– Board of Governors of the Community Colleges, Vacant position- Producers, Jeff Phillips- Commercial Applicator Certificate Holders.

AGENDA

- 9:30-9:35 Introduction of members and others in attendance and review of agenda**
David Duncan, Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) introduced new member Mr. Ronald Berg- Pesticide Dealers.
- 9:35-9:40 Review and approval of April 7, 2004 Minutes**
Committee approved the minutes without corrections.
- 9:40-10:10 West Nile Virus Program**
Vicki Kramer, Ph.D., Chief of the Vector-Born Disease Section, California Department of Health Services

Dr. Kramer reported that the West Nile Virus (WNV), first found in New York in 1999, is spreading throughout the United States. In 2004, WNV was found throughout six southern California counties in birds, horses, and sentinel chicken flocks used for testing and monitoring. Mosquitoes are tested directly for WNV at a UC Davis lab. Horses are especially affected with either eastern or western equine encephalitis, but vaccines are available. Twenty people in southern California were infected with WNV, although most people are not impacted. In rare cases, WNV can cause human encephalitis, an inflammation of the brain. Older people are the most susceptible to illnesses caused by WNV. Pets are not impacted. She reported that some endangered species of birds are affected by WNV. She stated that WNV is causing an economic impact in southern California and will spread to the Sacramento area by 2005. Information such as the Mosquito Control by Public and Private Entities in California Questions and Answers document and mosquito safety can be found at DPR's West Nile Virus web page.

10:10-10:45 Report from Subcommittee on Minimum Qualifications for PCA License Application

Linda LaVanne, Michael Costello, Mary Lou Flint, Kim Crum

David Duncan stated about half of PCA applications submitted to DPR are rejected because they do not meet the minimum qualifications (MQs) established in regulation. The regulations were implemented this last year. Most applicants who are accepted and take the examinations pass. It appears that the MQs are so rigorous that they have become the criteria for determining whether an applicant should be licensed as a PCA instead of the actual qualifying examination. DPR has little flexibility with the current core course requirement because they are in regulation.

Mac Takeda said that of the 78 new PCA applications received in fiscal year 2003–04, 40 qualified under the new MQs while 22 did not qualify; 4 did not submit transcripts; and 12 qualified because they held a previous PCA license.

The subcommittee that was established to evaluate and revise the MQs reported they had some difficulties in making changes without regulatory actions. Using a sampling of the applications received and DPR's "Course Requirements for New License Applicants" form, they tried to be as flexible as possible in approving courses from the application to fit within the current MQ criteria. In many cases, they were unable to do that. The subcommittee asked Dave to check with the DPR's regulation coordinator to determine if there was flexibility in interpreting CCR section 6550 to allow changes to the MQ criteria listed on the form without a regulatory change. Dave asked the subcommittee to draft proposed amendments to section 6550 before he would meet and discuss the issues with the Acting Director.

10:45-11:00 (BREAK TBA)

11:00-11:15 Licensing and Certification Website Updates, Preparation for License/Certificate Renewals

DPR and Committee

Mac Takeda, Pest Management and Licensing Branch, reported the following:

- The PCA minimum education requirements information on the website has been updated.
- An APCAC page on the website was added which includes previous minutes, membership lists, etc.
- DPR will send out renewal outreach information flyers to individuals and businesses whose licenses and certificates expire 12/31/04.
- Individual renewals packets will go out early September and businesses one month later.
- Continuing education hours chart based on how long the license or certificate was held was almost completed. Judy Letterman with PAPA said they have an old copy could be used in lieu of developing a new form.

Add Agenda Item PCA Licensing Requirements for Owner/Operator (Added to Agenda)

11:15 – 11:20 Dave Duncan

Richard Stolz and Mike Costello requested clarification regarding the owner/operator or his/her employees needing to have a PCA license.

David Duncan described the DPR legal interpretation on the need for a PCA license for the owner/operator of a property or for his or her employees. An owner/operator (or employees) of a firm or operation making pest management decisions is not required to be licensed as a PCA because the decisions are internal to the firm or operation.

11:20-11:30 Study Guides and Exams – Latest Projects

Landscape Maintenance Study Guide and Exam, Laws and Regulations Exam, Private Applicator Exam
Pat O'Connor-Marer

Pat O'Connor-Marer reported the following updates on the projects that he has been working on for DPR:

- The Landscape Maintenance Study Guide final draft was completed and was sent to the advisory committee for review and sign-off. The Exam question pool was sent to DPR.
- The Laws and Regulations Exam question pool was completed.
- The Private Applicator Exam question pool was completed.
- He also stated that he is retiring in October. His position with UC will not be refilled and his staff will have to seek other positions. Study guides and exam question projects will be assigned to Mary Lou Flint.

11:30-11:40 Update on Department of Fish and Game's Trapper License

David Duncan and Committee

Existing law requires every person, other than a fur dealer, who traps fur-bearing mammals or nongame mammals, designated by the commission or who sell raw furs of those mammals, to procure a trapper license from the Department of Fish and Game. (David Duncan supplied a notice regarding this Fish and Game's trapper license proposed exemptions for moles, voles, ground squirrels, opossum, skunks, rats, mice, raccoons, pocket gophers, and fox squirrels.) DPR supports the language of the exemption from the trapper license requirement.

11:20-11:45 School IPM Training for 2004

DPR School IPM Program staff

Dr. Nan Gorder gave an update on recent activities of the School IPM program. The pilot program to work with schools was established in 1993. A survey of pest management practices was conducted in 1996. The Healthy Schools Act of 2000 established a voluntary school IPM program. DPR developed or

established a website, training, guidebook, evaluation of school programs, notification to parents, warning posting, and annual reporting of pesticide use by licensed pest control businesses. School district staff training is the primary accomplishment in 2004. Training materials are available on the DPR School IPM website.

11:45-12:00 Next agenda and meeting date

Committee

Next meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2004, from 9:30 am to 12:00 pm.

Agenda items to discuss at the next meeting:

- ▶ Rulemaking calendar.
- ▶ PCA Minimum Qualifications
- ▶ License/Certificate Renewal update
- ▶ Trapper License Regulation update
- ▶ County Registration Fee Increase Legislative proposal

For other agenda items, contact David Duncan at (916) 445-3870 or dduncan@cdpr.ca.gov

12:35 pm Meeting Adjourned